(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be brought forward?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) A Constitution Amendment Bill in this regard introduced by the Government in the Lok Sabha has been passed by that House on May 10, 2000. The Bill on becoming an Act would enable the Government to exclude the backlog of reserved vacancies from the ceiling of 50 per cent reservation on total number vacancies to be filled in a year.

Conduction of Lecture Series on "Ideas that have Worked" in States/UTs

4966. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would take initiatives to organise lecture series on "Ideas that have worked" in States/UTs for the benefit of their officer's and;

(b) if so, the dates by which an action plan for the purpose is expected to be prepared and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) The lecture series on "Ideas that have worked" which is being jointly organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India, Civil Services Officers' Institute and the Government of Andhra Pradesh is currently confined only to New Delhi. The Secretaries incharge of Administrative Reforms in the States are also invited to attend the lecture series. The transcripts of the speeches are also sent to the Chief Secretaries of all the States/UTs for the benefit of their officers. Moreover, the States/UTs are competent to organise such series of lectures on their own.

Supply of Piped Gas in Agartala

4967. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Techno-Economic Feasibility Report on a project for extending supply of piped gas to 30,000 consumers, both domestic and industrial, in and around Agartala has been submitted by the TNGCL to ONGCL for equity participation to the tune of Rs. 5 crores and for participation of GAIL in the project;

(b) if so, what is the latest development in this regard; and

(c) by when GAIL is expected to complete the work of laying 200 M.M. pipe lines, along the 7 KM stretch from Dukli to Jawahar Bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) While ONGC has suggested that it does not have the required expertise in city gas distribution system, the proposal has been examined by GAIL. However, laying of the pipeline is dependent on finalisation of the terms and conditions between GAIL and TNGCL for gas supply.

Constant Fall in the Production of Oil

4968. SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether country's oil production continues to fall short of target by around 10 million tonnes in the eight plan period;

(b) if so, whether the fall is of the same amount in the current plan;

(c) whether ONGC's oil production is constantly falling;

(d) whether any Review Committee was set up last year to find out the reasons for short fall;

(e) if so, whether the report has been submitted; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The targets and